

It is our hope that this center will serve as the nexus to broaden awareness of the Armenian Genocide throughout the academic and educational communities whose focus is human rights, the responsibility of majorities towards minorities, and the horrified consequences for peoples and groups at risk in the absence of safeguards.

But it is also our hope that this place will provide public officials with a greater degree of moral conviction, courage and vision so that they summarily reject the incessant threats that emanate from Turkish officials to sever diplomatic and economic relations when any government dares to affirm the Armenian Genocide. The public officials with you today have demonstrated by their presence and other official actions that they reject Turkey's denials and threats.

Ladies and gentlemen . . .

Through this facility, we will remind the world of Hitler's chilling cynicism on humankind's predilection to forget.

Through this facility, we will enthusiastically support collaborative work between Turks and Armenians. We have seen in this great country the redemptive value of facing history squarely, and we will promote a dialogue to secure the same benefits for our two peoples.

Through this facility we will promote international condemnation of and action against any government of people that attempts to do what was done to our people at the beginning of the last century.

We must succeed in this unprecedented effort in the name of our martyred millions, in tribute to those who survived and established new Armenian communities throughout the world, and in honor of countless non-Armenians who protested this crime against humanity and who saved tens of thousands from oblivion.

Finally ladies and gentlemen, we will succeed not only to remember the past but also to enhance the security of the people of Armenian and Karabagh—and to help insure that the world never forgets the cataclysmic price of indifference and inaction.

We look forward to this historic challenge and we welcome all who wish to join us. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

Mr. Speaker, the Armenian genocide is a painful subject to discuss for me and others. We must never forget, though, what happened, and never cease speaking out. We must overcome the denials and the indifference, and keep alive the memory and truth of what happened to the Armenian people in the past, as we work to see in this tragic history that it never be repeated.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I also rise here this evening to speak of one of the great horrors of our century, and that is the Armenian genocide. As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I once again join a large number of colleagues in recognizing the great tragedy of the Armenian people.

As we all know and has been stated here several times tonight, this genocide occurred in 1915 when the Ottoman Empire began to force Armenians from their homeland, and it lasted until 1923. These 8 years saw the deaths of 1.5 million innocent victims and 500,000 exiled survivors.

Despite the tremendous magnitude of the genocide, the world stood by as families were torn asunder and millions of lives were taken. Therefore, today, as we stand in recognition of the victims of this Armenian genocide, we also stand in recognition of the guilt of complicity of all nations that turned away when faced with this great tragedy.

There is no doubt that calling events by their rightful name, genocide, is an important element of this recognition of responsibility.

Had we heeded the lessons that emerged from the massacre, perhaps we could have avoided other great tragedies in this century. In quietly letting the sorrow of the Armenian people go unresolved, however, we allow their tragedy to repeat itself over and over again in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s, in Rwanda in the 1990s, and elsewhere throughout the world.

Today, as we once again honor the victims of the Armenian genocide, on behalf of the Sixth District of Massachusetts, I also honor the commitment and perseverance of Armenian-Americans who have tirelessly struggled to ensure that the great sorrow of their people becomes known to all people.

As we in Congress continue to confront issues of international peace and security, we would do well to remember this message: never forget.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking the Armenia caucus for bringing us together to honor the memory of the greatest tragedy of Armenian history. This tragedy holds a valuable historical lesson for all of us.

I myself in California growing up got to know several Armenian families. One man, one elderly man in one of the families that I knew, he was the sole survivor of the Armenian genocide. So the lessons are not just for those that were directly involved; it is for all of us. It is for all of us to know it is important that we as Americans acknowledge this genocide. That is what we are talking about today.

Some 56 years ago, my father entered Dachau concentration camp in Germany with the Seventh Army. He took photographs there that day of those surviving that genocide, those starving

people that the American troops fed and liberated.

He remembers the quote from Adolph Hitler when Hitler was cautioned by the German chiefs of staff about his genocidal plans. Of course, as we have heard tonight, Hitler's retort was, "Who remembers the Armenians?"

Well, 86 years ago today, the Ottoman Empire set out on a well-orchestrated campaign to exterminate a race of people. On that day, they began the campaign by focusing on the Armenian religious and political and intellectual leaders that they arrested in Constantinople, and they murdered them.

In the years that followed, Armenians living under Ottoman rule were systematically deprived of their property, their individual rights, and ultimately, of their lives. As we have heard, between 1915 and 1923, the number of deaths was horrific. Some 1.5 million Armenians were murdered and 500,000 were deported from their homeland; and at the end of these 8 years, the Armenian population of Anatolia and western Armenia was virtually eliminated.

Henry Morgenthau, the U.S. ambassador to the Ottoman Empire at the time, characterized this as a death warrant to a whole race. Morgenthau recognized that this campaign was ethnic cleansing. It is unfortunate that the Turkish Government to this day does not recognize this. Willful ignorance of the lessons of history all but ensures that those mistakes can be made again.

In the last Congress, I joined 143 of my colleagues to cosponsor a congressional resolution recognizing the Armenian genocide. The resolution expressly differentiated between the Ottoman Empire and the modern day Republic of Turkey. We understand these are not the same governments.

Unfortunately, despite hard-fought efforts, the resolution was never able to come to the House floor last Congress because of concerns, in my mind concerns without merit, with Turkey's reaction. I believed then, as I do now, that it remains important for the Congress to go on the record.

Beyond affirming the U.S. record on the Armenian genocide, the resolution encouraged awareness and understanding of what genocide is, and this crime against humanity has been compounded to this day by those who refuse to recognize it. The victims and their families, many of whom live in the United States, are owed this recognition. That is why we must have this resolution pass this floor.

In my home State of California, the State Board of Education has incorporated the story of Armenian genocide in the social studies curriculum. California is doing the right thing.

As of last September, California law now permits victims of the Armenian

genocide and their heirs to use California courts to pursue unpaid insurance claims. The tentative settlement reached between heirs of Armenian genocide victims and New York Life Insurance over claims that New York Life failed to honor are an estimated 2,500 valid insurance claims. That is a good start.

The Armenian genocide is not simply a problem of the past; it has implications for the future. Our actions now will lay the groundwork for addressing genocide whenever it threatens to erupt again.

Many of the survivors of the genocide and their descendents now live, as I say, in the United States, many in California. This 85-year-old tragedy is more than an event in history. By recognizing and learning about the crime against humanity, we can begin to honor the courage of its victims and commemorate the strides made by its survivors.

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# HIV AND AIDS PANDEMIC HAS DEVASTATED MANY COUNTRIES IN AFRICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Michigan). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise before my colleagues to talk about the HIV and AIDS pandemic. The AIDS pandemic has devastated many countries in Africa, leaving few men and women and children untouched. Sub-Saharan Africa has been far more severely infected by AIDS than any other part of the world. In 16 countries, all in sub-Saharan Africa, more than 1 in 10 adults is affected by the HIV virus.

According to a joint report issued by the United Nations Program on HIV and AIDS, one-half or more of all 15 year-olds will eventually die of AIDS in some of the worst areas affected such as Zambia, South Africa, and Botswana. Over 34 million HIV/AIDS cases are in the world, and 24 million or 70 percent are in Africa.

I recently visited Botswana to see up close the destruction this disease has caused. Approximately 35 percent of Botswana's adult population is affected by HIV. AIDS has cut the life expectancy in Botswana from 71 years to 39, according to Karen Stanecki of the United States Census Bureau during an appearance at an international AIDS conference held in South Africa in July 2000.

The visit that I made strengthened my conviction to do my part in bringing the awareness to this issue and to work with my colleagues in Congress, national governments, State and local governments, and activists around the world to do more for the people who

have the virus and to do more to stop the spread of the disease.

Soon after I returned from Botswana, I sponsored an HIV/AIDS roundtable discussion in my district that consists of public health officials, community activists, HIV/AIDS case managers, community health providers, doctors, individuals suffering from HIV/AIDS. I sponsored this roundtable because my district in eastern North Carolina has a high incidence of HIV/AIDS.

Eastern North Carolina, which includes more than my district, all on the south side of 95 North, the Interstate, about 25 counties indeed have 30 percent of the State's HIV disease. That only represents, by the way, only 20 percent of our population. Clearly this is an issue that is affecting us both domestically as well as internationally.

Given the loss of lives AIDS has caused, the destruction of entire communities, the long-term impact of economic growth, we must step up our effort to fight the devastating disease. With children dying at the age of 15 and the life expectancy in most of Africa of 45 years for children born in some countries, something must be done. Indeed, children being born in these countries cannot expect to live long. There is very little future.

To ignore the problem is to our own peril, but to know the impact of AIDS and then to ignore it is to our own shame.

I applaud the pharmaceutical companies for dropping the lawsuit to prevent South Africa from importing cheaper anti-AIDS drugs and medicines. Now we must increase efforts to provide affordable anti-AIDS drugs to all who need them. I challenge the pharmaceutical industry, countries worldwide, and the United States government to engage in a collected effort to get the necessary drugs to people infected with HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD two publications on this issue, one from The New York Times and the other from The Washington Post, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Apr. 21, 2001]

DESPITE LEGAL VICTORY, SOUTH AFRICA  
HESITATES ON AIDS DRUGS  
(By Rachel L. Swarns)

JOHANNESBURG, April 20.—With the Champagne consumed and the celebration over, advocates for AIDS patients today turned their attention from the South African government's legal victory over the drug industry and looked to the future.

With sinking hearts, many concluded that the next big barrier to expanding access to AIDS drugs might well be the government itself.

The drug industry conceded South Africa's right to import cheaper brand-name medicines, but the governing African National Congress was not aggressively charting the way forward.

Instead, in its online newspaper, the party was ticking off countless reasons why the

country should think twice about providing lifesaving AIDS cocktails.

In this, the ruling party was echoing the health minister, Dr. Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, who dashed the hopes of her allies on Thursday when she made it clear that providing AIDS drugs was not a government priority, even though the drug industry had just dropped its objections to a law that allows South Africa to import brand-name drugs at the lowest prices available.

When pressed about her plans for treating the nation's 4.7 million people infected with H.I.V., Dr. Tshabalala-Msimang insisted that the government was already offering adequate care without costly AIDS drugs.

Mark Heywood, a lawyer who helped organize the street protests that applied pressure on the drug industry to drop its lawsuit against South Africa, said today that the minister's remarks felt "like a stab in the back." And her comments and those from the A.N.C. have revived concerns about the government's commitment to providing the medicines in a country with more people infected with H.I.V. than any other.

This morning, Mr. Heywood and other advocates for AIDS patients gathered to consider a new campaign to pressure drug companies to lower prices of AIDS drugs in the private sector. But they also decided to focus on the government, and to turn up the heat if necessary, to persuade health officials to work harder to bring the AIDS drugs readily available in the West to the poor in South Africa.

"Our work on the court case shows our willingness to enter into partnership, but we will not shirk from very difficult engagements with the government," Mr. Heywood said. "Yesterday was an important and empowering victory. But we're measuring success by bringing real medicines to real people."

On Thursday, 39 drug companies agreed to drop a lawsuit intended to block a law that would expand access to cheaper medicines. Among other things, it would allow the government to buy brand-name drugs that advocates say are sold more cheaply in India and Brazil than in South Africa.

But the law, which will take effect in several months, is unlikely to expand access significantly. The drugs are still expensive for South Africa, and the health care system here, particularly in rural areas, is still largely unprepared to administer such complicated medicines and to monitor patients.

Advocates for AIDS patients acknowledge those obstacles. Still, many had hoped to hear a sense of urgency from the government about addressing them.

Other African countries that are poorer than South Africa and that have even weaker health systems have already moved ahead with pilot programs that provide anti-retrovirals at a low cost. The countries include Ivory Coast, Uganda and Senegal.

Botswana, a relatively wealthy African country, hopes to provide the medicines to all of its citizens who need them by the end of the year.

Many people here hoped South Africa would be next. AIDS activists want the government to consider financing plans, to start training nurses and doctors and upgrading local hospitals and to put together a national treatment plan.

Other activists are pressuring the government to apply for special permission to import cheap generic versions of the patented AIDS drugs, which would finally bring the "cocktails" within reach.

But the government is clearly reluctant to take the preliminary steps to get those drugs to the dying.